

# THE SILENT WORLD

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No. 10.

## IN THE SHADOWS.

SOMETIMES our hands drop weakly from their tasks,  
And, crushed by clouds of darkest doubt and dread,  
We shrink, and shiver, and like children moan,  
Affrighted by the gloom that hangs o'er head.

Yet we remember how, in seasons past,  
The warmth and fragrance freighted all the air,  
Then, in the very eagerness of pain,  
We look once more; and lo! *the sky is fair!*

—Bella D. Hixon.

## AMOS KENDALL.

### XVIII.

LOOKING through Mr. Kendall's autobiography, before laying it aside, perhaps the first impression respecting his character is that of his

#### PERSEVERANCE.

When a boy at school, Mr. Kendall was most unmercifully ridiculed by his teacher and fellow-pupils for the manner in which he delivered his first declamation, and for his taste in selecting a piece too long to be suited to the occasion. For these mistakes he was in no wise responsible: he was required to go through the exercise before he had ever seen any one do it, and no instruction was given him in regard to the character of a suitable piece. He resolved to show his persecutors that he could overcome the difficulties under which he labored. Accordingly, the next Winter, which he spent at home, he devoted a large part of his spare time to reading and practising declamation. He committed to memory several pieces; and spoke them before a glass, studying emphasis and gesticulation—performing himself the offices of instructor and critic. Soon after his return to school in the following Spring, he was again called upon “to speak a piece;” and this time he did it so well that his companions, in astonishment, asked where he had been to school; at the same time telling him that he had greatly improved. His teacher also commended him.

Later on in his life, we find him undertaking the reorganization of the Post-office Department, at a time when the confusion and disorder in it were so great that the President was almost in despair, an undertaking which might well seem formidable to a man of even more than average perseverance and tenacity. How well he succeeded has already been told farther back in these extracts from his autobiography.

#### ABILITY AS A WRITER.

As a writer, Mr. Kendall had few equals. Frank and honest in expression, mindful of the minutest details, choice in the use of words, he invested his style with a grace and vigor which commands our admiration at the same time that we are convinced by his arguments. Such writing as that in his articles on “free trade,” for instance, is seldom seen, presenting, as they do, the whole question in a nut-shell, and so clearly and forcibly that more is said in a few short articles than other writers have said in volumes.

In the autobiography, we are not admitted very far into Mr. Kendall's private life, but we gain such impressions from the extracts from his letters, that we see that he was a more than usually kind and affectionate husband and indulgent father.

#### RESPECT FOR GENERAL JACKSON.

Mr. Kendall was not more jealous of his own honor than he was

of the good name of General Jackson, and he never failed to repel, with burning words, the slightest imputation upon the character of the old hero, by whomsoever uttered. An article in *The National Intelligencer*, containing a disparaging allusion to the General, was the occasion of the following, written a few month before his death:

“*Editors National Intelligencer*: “Please discontinue your paper sent to my address.

I know of no more fitting way to express my indignation at your infamous attack upon the character of General Jackson in this day's issue. Can no degree of integrity, patriotism, and public service save the memory of the illustrious dead from the jackals of a licentious press?”

#### PUBLIC LIFE.

In 1834, Miss Harriet Martineau, being in Washington, thus writes of Mr. Kendall as one of the most important personages of the day.

“I was fortunate enough once to catch a glimpse of the invincible Amos Kendall, one of the most remarkable men in America. He is supposed to be the moving spring of the Administration; the thinker, planner, and doer; but it is all in the dark. Documents are issued, the excellence of which prevents their being attributed to the persons who take the responsibility of them; a correspondence is kept up all over the country, for which no one seems answerable; work is done of goblin extent and with goblin speed, which makes men look about them with superstitious wonder; and the invisible Amos Kendall has the credit of it all. President Jackson's letters to his Cabinet are said to be Kendall's; the Report on Sunday mails is attributed to Kendall; the letters sent from Washington to remote country newspapers, whence they are collected and published in *The Globe*, as demonstrations of public opinion, are pronounced to be written by Kendall. Every mysterious paragraph in opposition newspapers relates to Kendall; and it is some relief that his now having the office of Postmaster-General affords opportunity for open attack upon this twilight personage, who is proved by the faults in the Post-office administration, not to be able to do quite everything well. But he is undoubtedly a great genius. He unites with his ‘great talent for silence’ a splendid audacity.

“It is clear that he could not do the work he does (incredible in amount any way) if he went into society like other men. He did, however, one evening—I think it was at the Attorney-General's. The moment I went in, intimations reached me from all quarters, amid nods and winks, ‘Kendall is here’; ‘That is he.’ I saw at once that his plea for seclusion (bad health) is no false one. The extreme sallowness of his complexion, and hair of such perfect whiteness as is rarely seen in a man of middle age, testified to his disease. His countenance does not help the superstitious to throw off their dread of him. He probably does not desire this superstition to melt away, for there is no calculating how much influence was given to Jackson's administration by the universal belief that there was a concealed eye and hand behind the machinery of government, by which every thing could be foreseen and the hardest deeds done. A member of Congress told me this night that he had watched through five sessions for a sight of Kendall, and had never obtained it till now. Kendall was leaning on a chair, with head bent down, and eye glancing up at a member of Congress, with whom he was in earnest conversation, and in a few minutes he was gone.”

[From *The Annals*.]

## MR. ACKERS ON THE "FRENCH" AND "GERMAN" SYSTEMS.

WHAT struck us most was the contrast in the love of home. Those taught under the "French System" care, comparatively, little for the "holidays," for home, and relations. Why? Because the institution is their home; the principal, matron, and teachers, their parents and relations. And this is natural, for there is no easy or sufficient means of communication between the pupils and the outward world; no, not even when they have left the institution. Again, the "French System" being based on signs, whose order is inverted, (certainly as far as English and all European languages are concerned,) the pupils have the greatest difficulty to think *in the language of their country*—indeed, rarely, if ever, succeed in doing so even on leaving school. This want of being able to think in the spoken language of their country naturally prevents their acquiring ease of composition, and hence so very few are able, after say years' training, to write so as to be easily and readily understood by hearing persons.

It is true they have dactylogy; but even could they use this grammatically, how few hearing persons would understand them. These facts seem sufficient—many more might be given—to show why those educated in the "French-System" institutions should be found to cling so much together, to be so "clanny," to intermarry so frequently, to border on becoming a separate race, and all the many other special phases which are so constantly deplored.

Were the life of the deaf-mute intended to be passed wholly in an institution, then would I, for one, wish for no other system. I do not deny their happiness there; I do not deny the ease and pleasure to them of signs and pantomime, their "*natural language*," as it is so often, but erroneously, termed.

I do not deny that to the initiated the term "beautiful language of signs" may be appropriate; but we, who desire that the "deaf-mute" should be rendered as independent as possible, have to deal not with lives passed in institutions, not with the initiated, but with a rough and matter-of-fact world, often unsympathetic, and not caring to trouble about those who cannot make themselves easily understood. In fact, they are like foreigners in their own land—strangers in their own home. And this brings me to the sad confession of the "French-System" advocates, that "for deaf-mutes the language of their country is a *foreign language*." Should this be? Is it necessary? I answer unhesitatingly: *No; in the majority of cases, certainly not.*

Let them be taught by the "German System;" this will enable them to think in the *written order of the language of their country*; will enable them to hold much conversation with hearing persons, and to understand much that is spoken to them; will make them figuratively less deaf, and truly less dumb; indeed, not dumb at all.

It will be urged that this system "dwarfs the intellect." I can answer for myself that such is not my experience. Of course much time is taken up in teaching articulation and lip-reading, but this is fully made up by the comparative ease with which written language is acquired. Again, it is asserted that much of the seeming knowledge is "parrot-like" and unreal. In answer to this, I can bring the fact of our having examined and cross-examined in very many institutions whole classes, good and bad, most carefully, (the teachers not unfrequently leaving the room,) and so far from finding those taught under the "German System" deficient in mental training and knowledge, we found them equal to any of the same standing in America, and far more capable of expressing themselves in written language. We took especial note of this, because the

contrary had been so over and over again impressed upon us in America that we were fully prepared, in knowledge and power of intellect, to find them far behind those taught under the "French System"; but such was not the case. As far as their education went, it appeared thorough and good; but as only six years are allowed in Germany, except in the case of very dull pupils, (the converse of the American plan,) of course as much is not attempted as at New York or Hartford, for instance, where, happily, time is not so limited. In corroboration of our views on this point, it may be well to mention that on one occasion, a German, well acquainted with the ordinary schools, after examining the pupils carefully, good and bad, told us that they had done better in language, exercises, and general attainments, than children of the same age in ordinary primary (hearing) schools, equal to those of the middle class in Germany. From my own experience in England, I fully believe this to be correct. At the same time, I do not, for a moment, mean to say that all the "German-System" schools are equally good. So much depends upon the teachers that you may get better results with an inferior system, and *vice versa*, according to the qualifications of the teaching staff; and these exceptions are not rare in either system. Another objection of the advocates of the "French System" against the "German," so often heard, is, that what speech the pupils do possess when they leave school they do not keep up, and that, take them out of their own groove, they are unable to converse. In order to test this fully, and to see for ourselves how old pupils got on in the world, we carefully inquired about such and visited *only the toto-congenital* "deaf-mutes." Of these we saw a good number in different towns—some at home, some in workshops, some milliners, some master-tradesmen: we did not find one with whom we could not converse orally—some more; some less; some quicker, some slower; but all (save those educated in one institution where signs were allowed<sup>\*</sup>) we could understand, and make ourselves understood in return. We inquired from these old pupils themselves, from their masters, their relations, their work-people, and those with whom they lodged, and the universal answer to our inquiry: "How do they communicate with you and others?" was: "Why! by talking, of course"; and this said with such an air of astonishment that we often felt ashamed of the question. One old pupil we were talking to had just come out of court, where his evidence had been given and received orally; and mainly on his testimony the prisoner had been convicted. It should be added that we never inquired about these old pupils till we were ready to go to them, lest they might have been "prepared;" but such precautions we took for the sake of the incredulous, not because we had reasons to expect fraud—very far from it. But let it be distinctly understood that we are far from asserting that the toto-congenital deaf can ever speak and lip-read so perfectly as to pass for hearing persons. It may be so. I have heard of supposed instances, chiefly mentioned to us by "French-System" teachers or others not versed in the "German" method, but none that I am personally acquainted with have borne the test of investigation. At the same time, I can quite understand people, not prepared to meet a "deaf and dumb" person, *for a time* imagining that they were speaking to a hearing one. In the happy interview we had with Miss Jennie Lippitt† and her family, Mrs. Ackers frequently forgot she was with a deaf person until reminded by her not receiving answers when her face was hidden from Miss Lippitt. The fact that in America, France, and England nearly every one classes the toto-congenital, semi-mutes, and semi-deaf as "deaf and dumb" will account for their not being expected to talk, and so, when such is the case, they may be considered hearing persons for

\*Wherever we found signs allowed, there the results were less good.

†It should be noted that Miss Lippitt was not born deaf.



a time by people paying no great attention to them. To conclude this subject, while we often heard from "German-System" teachers that certain pupils were sometimes taken for hearing persons, not one of the said teachers spoke as though any habitually passed as such.

Having touched upon the "French" and "German" methods, the question naturally arises: "Are there no others? and if so, would it not be possible to extract the good out of the two now rival systems, and combine all that is excellent into one general one?" This brings me to the so-called "Combined" method—or the "French System" as the *basis*, with a certain amount, it may be much or little, of articulation added. In examining the pupils taught by these three methods, truth compels us, reluctantly, to admit that those under the "Combined" system are the least educated, and the reason is not far to seek. Take, for instance, some of your own institutions where certain pupils are taken away from the rest to learn articulation, it may be half-an-hour a day, more or less. What are constant remarks? Why, that "the articulation pupils are behind the others," and no wonder—for whatever takes the pupil away from his companions regularly, for never so short a time, be it articulation, drawing, Latin, or any other thing foreign to the ordinary work of his class, must have the effect of making him show to disadvantage with his class-mates, whose attention and time have not been disturbed.

But it will be argued: "Could not more time be devoted to articulation?" It would be of no avail, I reply, for so long as signs are the *base* of education, so long will the pupils think in them, rather than in articulation; and in that case no good result is to be gained, because articulation will be but a foreign language, in which ease enough to be pleasant or useful will rarely be gained—an annoyance very often, a task; and will, I fear, ever lead to disappointment.

To sum up briefly, our conclusions are in favor of the "*German System*" for all who have once heard, for most of the semi-deaf, and a large majority of the *toto-congenital*. For the remainder, I can not imagine any system more appropriate than the "French;" only recording our opinion that less abundance of signs and increased use of dactylology and writing in the more advanced pupils would be found, as I know many of your own teachers think, of benefit in America. But it may be asked in astonishment by some—it has been so asked before, in similar words: "If these views are correct, is it not a slur upon the wisdom of generations of the American people?" To which I would answer that those who hold like views with myself call in question, not the wisdom, but the knowledge of those most interested in the subject in America.

In conclusion, it may be asked by those who have cared to follow me: "What would you do? Would you destroy or upset those magnificent institutions, the legitimate pride of the deaf-mute in America? Do you forget the mighty powers now at work on the 'French System?' Do you fancy yourself sufficient to change the work of generations?" Indeed, indeed, I am not unmindful of the deep and affectionate hold which the present system rightly has over Americans; of the glorious buildings; of the mighty power of the teaching staff and public, State support; nor am I vain enough to suppose *myself* of any avail; but I have such a clear faith in the truth and justice of the *cause* which I am advocating, that I do believe vast and important changes will take place—it may not be speedily—in all countries where the "French System" is now taught; and I should not be doing my duty were I not to point out, to the best of my ability, some of the means by which it seems to me these changes might be carried out most beneficially. I would not interfere with the present institutions, but would start others on the "German System." These should not be as angry rivals or

enemies to the old ones; very far from it. I would, where possible, have the two, not in one building, not even in the same locality, but under one management, one "board of corporators," (I think you would say.) Thus would I beg all who have the interest of the deaf at heart—and herein I include all the teachers of whatever system, and all interested in the subject—to unite forces for the common good. And hopeful I am that such a blessed day for the "deaf and dumb" will come, when all who are engaged in their education shall be looked upon as friends and fellow-workers—when, for instance, in America, all the grand institutions, the mighty force of teachers, the noble and energetic staff, supported by funds which are the envy of other countries—when, in short, all the agencies now at work will be combined in one great and united effort to give to each pupil the education best suited to his case—to form one band, knit together by the strong tie of mutual trust, (would that it were so now!) marching ever onward and onward in the glorious path which shall lead to making, where possible, "the deaf less deaf and the dumb less dumb;" and to restoring one and all, as far as may be, to the condition of their hearing fellow-citizens.

— [CORRESPONDENCE.] —

FROM MAINE.

To the Editors of *The Silent World*:

I FEEL at liberty to add to my letter in the eighth number, something about the arrangements for religious services, which were made on the twenty-ninth of March last.

During the evening, after Mr. W. B. Swett's address, the deaf-mutes, sixteen in number, formed an association called the "Biddeford and Saco Deaf-mute Christian Association." A committee of three having been elected, the following officers were chosen: R. G. Page, Chairman; J. W. Page, Treasurer; and Augustus Titcomb, Assistant. After this business was ended, we ate apples, and Mr. Swett told a few interesting stories. The next morning he went home to Massachusetts.

On the 19th inst., Mr. Marsh preached two interesting sermons, in the vestry of the Baptist Church. Having passed a long Sunday evening at Mr. and Mrs. Page's, he thanked us for our kindness and courtesy, and said he had felt much interested in our community during his visit. He reached his sixtieth year on April 26.

We made arrangements for Mr. Bailey to preach to us on Sunday, April 26, but he was unable to do so, and we hope to have him May 10.

We have arranged for one or the other of these three gentlemen, all leading members of the Boston Deaf-mute Mission, to preach to us every other Sabbath. We are to have a Bible class on the Sabbaths on which there is no preaching. The Unitarian Society, of Saco, have kindly granted the free use of their vestry for our meetings. It is a central point, and we feel very grateful to them for their generosity. The vestry is considered by speaking people as quite small, but I think it is large enough for the deaf-mutes to assemble for services.

Our Association has made good progress, and every thing seems to be right. We are in hopes it will live for an indefinite period.

*Biddeford, April 28, 1874.*

ROSCOE.

W. S. COOPER, educated at the Missouri Institution, is champion billiard player of Paris, Texas, where he is now living. He would like to play with any deaf-mute for the championship of the United States. His highest run on a four-ball carom table was 300, and his best average at the three-ball game  $7\frac{1}{2}$ . Can any one beat that?

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WASHINGTON, MAY 15, 1874.

ELSEWHERE will be found nearly all of Mr. B. St. John Acker's letter to *The Annals*, reviewing the results of his investigations into the French and German, or Sign and Articulation Systems of teaching the deaf and dumb. It is well worth the careful perusal and earnest consideration of all of our readers.

THE District of Columbia Clerc Memorial Association is evidently in need of an organizer, and one, withal, who has some pluck and more common sense. When first organized, it was going to shoulder the whole thing and carry us along at railroad speed. Suddenly it collapsed or went to sleep. Now, at the eleventh hour, signs of life appear, a man is wanted to set it on its pins. But the country has managed to get along tolerably well without its valuable aid, and is not particularly concerned about the awakening. Meanwhile virtuous splurges from *The Silent World* to recover those few missing dollars, will be in order.—*Deaf-mutes' Journal*.

There are, evidently, some persons in New York who "votes for General Shackson still."

MR. WILLIAM H. WEEKS, the Resident Manager of the Clerc Memorial in Hartford, Conn., has sent us a photograph of Laurent Clerc. It is of the cabinet size, and is a faithful representation of Mr. Clerc as we knew him, in his later years. All who revere his memory should procure a copy. Mr. Weeks is selling the picture at fifty cents for the benefit of the Memorial Fund, and those who buy will aid in the erection of the monument.

IN this connection we suggest, in no spirit of fault-finding, that it would be more satisfactory if a picture of Mr. Clerc, as he appeared in his prime, could be procured. And it would be more just and reasonable if the bust, which is to adorn his monument, should be modelled on the same principle. It may be more pleasing to his immediate friends to have him presented as the last years of his life have stamped him on their minds; but it is neither just to the memory of Mr. Clerc, nor to posterity, to depict him as a decrepit old man, whom age has robbed of most of his graces of form and feature, and left but a wreck of his former vigorous and beautiful manhood. It could hardly be more inappropriate to picture him in bronze and marble as a toddling child, or worn and haggard with his death-bed sufferings. The work is the measure of the man, and, to the strangers of another age, a man is known only in connection with the work he does, and to them he should be presented at his best, or, at least, as he appeared when he did that work.

It seems to us that *The Deaf-mutes' Journal* is trying hard to cover up, and divert attention from the real principle at issue between itself and Mr. C. Aug. Brown, when it raises such a hue and cry about "thieves," "base falsehoods," "personal character," etc. But if its editor really believes that we have meant to imply

that he was a thief in what we said in commendation of Mr. Brown's communications, we will, here, unreservedly deny any such intention, although we think that it would be infinitely to the advantage of the deaf-mutes of New York if he pocketed every cent of the appropriation, and made all his subscribers pay for their paper. We have too much sincere respect for Mr. Rider to wish to call him a thief; and it has not occurred to us that any one could put such a construction upon our own words, or upon those of Mr. Brown. He has simply called attention to the fallacious principle upon which the appropriation is given for the support of *The Journal*, and pointed out the ease with which a person could defraud the State, should he feel so inclined.

THE real point at issue is this: Mr. Brown holds that the granting of an annual appropriation by the State of New York, for the free distribution among deaf-mutes of a common country newspaper, encourages among them the tendency to depend upon the charity of others for even their most trivial wants. This he esteems degrading; and for this he would have it abolished. *The Journal*, knowing from our previous record how strongly we are opposed to everything that has such a tendency, does us the honor of asserting, without a single hint from us, that we agree with Mr. Brown. We have hesitated about denouncing the principle till now, fearing that our motives would be misconstrued; but the intemperate remarks of *The Journal* now compel us to assert our true position and our reasons therefor. We are honestly opposed to the principle on which *The Journal* depends for support; but while this is so, we do not doubt the honesty and disinterestedness of Mr. Rider in conducting his paper on such a basis, and we invite *The Journal* to prove, if it can, that this appropriation is not unjust to the deaf-mutes and to the people of the State; that it is not unconstitutional, and disgraceful and degrading to the class which the paper ostensibly aims to elevate.

WE invite this discussion in the hope that we may be able to instil more manly ideas into the minds of some of the class to which we belong, in regard to their relations to the rest of the world, and the extent to which they may justly look to the charity of others for aid and comfort. Few will deny that the practice of admitting members of our class to places of amusement, without charge, of granting them half-fare tickets over rail-road and steamboat lines, and of charging them half-rates at hotels, all because they are "poor deaf and dumb people," lays the foundation for the life of begging, in one form or another, to which so many resort. This practice is often confirmed in the pupil while he is yet at school, and, although we would not deny the deaf-mute the privileges which all children and all students enjoy, we would not give them more privileges, nor give them any for the reason that they are deaf, but lead them to understand that they are thus favored only because they are children and scholars. We would have them so trained that, when they leave school, they will expect to earn their living like honest folks. Instead of this they are taught to expect their weekly newspaper to be given to them free; and are they to be blamed if they reason that it is just as right to obtain their daily bread in the same manner, as daily bread is an article of infinitely greater necessity than a newspaper? And in what is it better to give a man the subscription price of a newspaper, because he is deaf, than it is to give him his board at a hotel, his railway fare, or his admission to a show? Will *The Journal* answer these questions?

LAURA BRIDGEMAN, the well-known blind deaf-mute, is fifty-eight years old.



### THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE NEW YORK INSTITUTION.

THE Board of Directors of the New York Institution has hit upon a plan whereby greater preparation for the actual labor of self-support will be provided for the pupils of that Institution, without interfering with their intellectual development, or lowering the standard of their attainments. Half the day is to be spent in the shops and in domestic details, the remainder in the school-room. Each teacher is to have two classes a day—one for four hours in the morning, and the other for four in the afternoon. To carry out this plan, it is necessary to reduce the number of teachers to sixteen. Accordingly, rather more than one-third of the teachers have sent in their resignations, to take effect at the end of the present term. Those who remain are to receive increased compensation.

New York is one of the leading institutions in the country; whatever is attempted there in the way of change or reform will be watched with interest by all the other institutions, and, if successful, will be imitated in a ratio proportioned to the measure of success. This proposed change, therefore, is of interest to every one who attaches any importance to the education of the deaf in this country.

In hearing schools, the usual limit of the school-hours is six. Neither teacher nor pupils are as intensely occupied as in a class in a school for the deaf. The teacher has one class for an hour, and then another, and another; so that each class receives his direct attention, and gives its own to him in return, but one or two hours daily. In an institution for the deaf and dumb, on the contrary, the attention of the teacher is fixed on one class, and that of the class on him, the livelong day. It would be difficult to find a teacher of the deaf and dumb who would admit that his work is no harder than that of a teacher in a hearing school. And yet it is often questioned whether the teachers and pupils in the hearing schools are not overworked. If it is true that the work of teaching the deaf is more laborious and exhausting than that of teaching the hearing, and six hours is generally considered enough for the hearing teacher, how will it do to exact eight hours from the teacher of the deaf? And if the teacher of the deaf can and will teach eight hours, can he teach as well as if he taught only five or six?

In New York, increased compensation is to be given for increased work. But does any one suppose, for a moment, that the increased compensation is to be in proportion to the increased work? If it is, what need of reducing the number of teachers. Why not take the money to be paid for the extra work and employ additional teachers, thus avoiding the sending of a fresh class, in the afternoon, to a teacher who is worn out with his morning's work.

Probably the teachers who have thrown up their situations at New York, rather than submit to eight hours' work a day, will have no great difficulty in getting situations in other institutions, as Dr. Peet recommends them as "intelligent, well-educated, and skillful in their departments of instruction." But if the change goes no further than New York, will a situation there be rendered more tempting by it? and is it likely that any intelligent man, about to teach there, will be influenced favorably by it? If the experiment is successful, it will be tried elsewhere, and the more readily because so large a number of men, who received their normal instruction in New York, are connected with the other institutions; these, as a matter of course, greatly increase the influence of New York in the institutions with which they are connected. The best and most cultivated teachers will be driven from the profession; for the best and most cultivated are the very ones who will find least difficulty in engaging in other occupations. Continuance in the profession will become merely a question of necessity, and no man will willingly adopt it in the face of the labor exacted.

Then, if not before, the standard of the intellectual attainments

of the pupils will be lowered, and, too late, the mistake will be realized. But not until much harm has been wrought by it; for all the while that the mistake is developing itself and being remedied, there will be pupils whose education will be less complete because of it. They may be better prepared to support themselves, but they will hardly be as well prepared to get along in the world. If the ability for self-support is the most important thing in a deaf boy's education, let it be so understood, and everything else made subordinate to it. Let it be admitted that the present ideas and system are all wrong, and efforts be made to remedy them. Until then, it is unfair alike to pupil and teacher to try doubtful experiments in order to give increased time and attention to what now occupies the second place in the system of deaf-mute education.

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

### BIRTH-DAY CELEBRATIONS.

*To the Editors of The Silent World:*

THE anniversary of the birth-day of George Kent and Thomas N. Head was celebrated at Amherst, N. H., on the 13th of April; and there was a large attendance of deaf-mutes, about twenty being present, including a number of ladies, whose presence added to the enjoyment of the occasion. The dinner, which was the chief feature of the celebration, was one in every way eminently fitted to the occasion. Grace was said by Mr. John O. David, a deaf-mute, after which nearly two hours were spent in the enjoyment of the choice spread. The body having been refreshed with things palatable to the taste, there was a flow of wit and reason, consummating the festivities. Mr. Thomas Brown, from West Henniker, N. H., offered the first toast: "The sixty-first birth-day of George Kent and Thomas N. Head—their happiness and future prosperity." This was responded to, in interesting addresses, by Messrs. Stover Rines, Edwin N. Bowes, and others. The next toast was: "The officers of the Boston Deaf-mute Library Association, who have come to Amherst to celebrate the sixty-first birth-day of Messrs. Kent and Head." Mr. Brown and others responded, adding to the intellectual feast, and help make the occasion most sociable. Mr. Brown referred to his long connection with the association. He gave some sketches from memory of incidents which endeared to him Mr. Kent and family. After a delightful social party, the company, in good season, separated with many good wishes for Messrs. Kent's and Head's health and happiness.

The sixtieth anniversary of Mr. Jonathan Marsh's birth-day, was celebrated on the evening of the 27th of April. A large number of deaf-mutes were present. The formal exercises were begun in the early evening, Mr. H. A. Osgood acting as chairman. He addressed the company, and prayer was offered by Mr. J. O'Connell. Messrs. Adam Acheson, W. B. Swett, and others made addresses which were highly applauded. A fine collation, consisting of ice-creams and cakes, etc., the former the gift of Mr. A. F. Copeland, of Washington street, was served at 9 o'clock P. M., after which Mr. Marsh was presented with a set of nice furniture, the gift of his deaf-mute friends. Mr. Marsh was taken completely by surprise, and was deeply affected. In replying, he said that he could only understand the emotions of the heart which the gift called forth; for the relations between himself and deaf-mutes were of the heart, and the heart could but respond warmly to the expression of remembrance from any of those among whom he had ministered. To these friends, in accepting the gift, he sent his whole-hearted gratitude and kind remembrance. He spoke at some length, and mentioned the prosperity of the Deaf-mute Library Association and

Mission, and the pleasure it gave him to see so many friends present. Secretary S. Rines offered the following sentiment: "To our most worthy Trustee, J. P. Marsh—May his shadow never be less." The personal reminiscences of Mr. Marsh were touched upon by Messrs. E. N. Bowes and Adam Acheson, and other prominent deaf-mutes. The time was most happily spent by all in attendance until the close of the evening; and it may safely be said to mark an era in the history of the Boston Deaf-mute Library Association and Mission.

*Boston, April 30, 1874.*

S. R.

### PERSONAL.

OUR Maine correspondent has written us another letter, in which he says Mr. Bailey preached to the deaf-mutes of Saco and Biddeford, on Sunday, May 3.

At a confirmation service, held by Bishop Potter, in St. Ann's Church, New York, Sunday afternoon, April 26, twenty deaf-mutes were presented in a class of forty-four.

MRS. Z. K. DE MOTT, Matron of the Michigan Institution until recently, has accepted a position as Matron in the new Public School for Indigent children at Cold Water, Michigan.

MR. ISAAC H. BENEDICT, the well-known clerk in the Treasury Department, in Washington, has had his house on Capitol Hill extensively repaired, and he now enjoys a thoroughly comfortable and elegant home.

G. W. WAKEFIELD, a graduate of the American Asylum and once connected with the Deaf-mute College, has been traveling in the West nearly all Winter. He will work, as usual, on his farm, in Maine, this season.

FRIDAY evening, May 8, the oldest son of Mr. Charles K. W. Strong, of Washington, five years of age, fell from the top of a porch, breaking the bone of his arm above the elbow-joint. Dr. Ford was sent for, and set the broken limb. The little boy will, we hope, be well in a short time.

FIVE deaf-mutes were baptized and five confirmed at a special service held in St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia, Tuesday evening, the 5th inst. Rev. Dr. Gallaudet interpreted the Baptismal service as read by Rev. Dr. Clerc, and also the addresses of Rev. Dr. Rudder and Rt. Rev. Bishop Stevens.

REV. DR. GALLAUDET was in Philadelphia for a day or two during the first week in May, on business connected with the Church Mission to Deaf-mutes. A deaf-mute couple, Mr. Peter Gilmore and Miss Emma King Paxson, were married by him at the Institution for Deaf and Dumb, during his stay.

MRS. P. H. GROESBECK, formerly of the Louisiana Institution, was at Stephenville, Texas, until recently, with her son, Charles, who was a student in the Deaf-mute College a while ago. He has been very sick with neuralgia of the heart, and for some time, it was feared it would end in paralysis of the left side. This danger was averted, however, and, at last accounts, he was doing well and slowly recovering.

HON. KENT JARVIS, who has been for twelve successive years connected with the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Institution, was presented with a gold-headed ebony cane by the officers of the Institution on the occasion of his retirement from the Board in April last. The cane is inscribed: "The officers of the D. and D. Inst. to Hon. Kent Jarvis. For official and personal worth 1862—1874." Mr. Jarvis replied in a very neat and appropriate speech, in which he strongly manifested his regard for the donors.—*Mute's Chronicle*.

THE Trustees of the Church Mission to deaf-mutes held a quarterly meeting in St. Ann's Church, New York, on Wednesday evening, April 29. After the reading of the favorable reports of the Treasurer and General Manager and the transaction of some other business, the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee with power to commence a building fund for the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf-mutes, viz: Messrs. Carlin, Fitzgerald, Haight, Newell, Campbell, Fersenheim, and Lewis. Mr. John Carlin is chairman and Mr. W. O. Fitzgerald, treasurer.

MISS JULIA A. BIRD left us on the 1st of November, the feeble state of her health demanding rest from active duty. She had been connected with the Institution for a period of twenty-seven years, during eight of which she occupied the important position of first assistant matron. The necessity for her retirement was, to all, a matter of regret, and she left, bearing with her the best wishes of all for her health and happiness. The second assistant matron, Miss Sallie R. Briggs, was chosen as her successor, and the vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Miss Briggs was filled by the appointment to it of Emma V. Stevenson.—*Penn. Report*.

### COLLEGE RECORD.

#### AN ALUMNI GATHERING.

IN accordance with the action of the Alumni at the dinner to the class of '73, the Committee then appointed are making arrangements for a demonstration of a similar character this year. It is hoped that as many of the Alumni as can possibly come will be present, as it is intended to make the day heretofore celebrated as Commencement Day, an annual season of reunion and jollification.

Besides the dinner, there will be the exercises of the graduating class; such as the delivery of valedictories, the planting of the ivy, the presentation of degrees, and other ceremonies not yet fully decided upon. The interest of the day will, without doubt, fully equal that of Presentation Day, and to graduates it will doubtless be more interesting, because it is exclusively their own, and wholly in their honor and for their pleasure.

LOUISA FISHER, a little girl of ten, is the latest addition to our household.

FROLICsome Preps. smashed a standing slate in the Lecture Room recently.

MR. DRAPER has rented a pretty good horse, and dwells on her back a fair portion of the day.

THE Faculty are fractious and seven separate attempts to photograph them collectively have failed.

OUR woodland is being surrounded by a high fence. This will make it safer for our pupils to ramble there.

DR. PALMER, Principal of the Belleville, Ontario, Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, called at the College on the 7th, looking remarkably well. He had been to North Carolina and was on his return to Canada.

AT the Concert of the Sunday-School for May, the Rev. Dr. Hamlin, for forty years a resident of Constantinople, Turkey, gave a very interesting account of the schools of Turkey as he found them forty years ago, and as they now are. It is too late to give his remarks in this number, but they are so interesting that we hope to do so in our next.

A SIX-FOOT telescope, made of paste-board and a common pocket spy-glass, fitted with an extra lense, and mounted on the Photographer's tripod, is creating a sensation in College with its discoveries of planets and spots on the sun. Mr. Gray, of the Preps., is the manufacturer and engineer, and he charges one cent a squint to raise a fund to purchase other lenses.

THE President gave another of his interesting and inimitable lectures on Europe, in the Hall on the 2d. His subject was the "Hills and Dales of Switzerland"; and, mingled with picturesque descriptions, we were treated to bits of personal experience. After the lecture, a social reunion was held, and about two hours were spent in games that bordered on the boisterous; and this is the chief reason, probably, why all aver that they enjoyed themselves so much.



THE *Lit.* held its reception on the 8th, in the Hall and the College dining-room, and it was a quiet but very pleasant affair. The refreshments were plentiful and appetites were good. Among the persons who honored the occasion were General Hawley, member of Congress from Connecticut, Rev. H. Clay Trumbull, the President's brother-in-law, Rev. Dr. Chickering, who has lately been travelling in the South, Mr. L. C. Tuck, of the class of '70 and his wife, Mr. John Donnell, formerly connected with the College and now of the Pension Office, and others. The efficient Committee of Arrangements consisted of Messrs. Balis, Teegarden, and Simpson.

### INSTITUTION NEWS.

#### PROTESTANT INSTITUTION, MONTREAL.

THIS Institution is struggling for existence amid an extremely Roman Catholic population, and it meets with no encouragement from the Provincial Government. At present every effort is being made on the part of the managers to obtain a larger and more suitable building. The money for this purpose will have to come out of the pockets of a few Protestant merchants, and other benevolent persons of Montreal. The burden to them is great, and, to relieve them somewhat, Mr. Widd, the Principal, has published *The Companion and Guide for Deaf-mutes* noticed in our last number, and all who buy a copy will be aiding this Institution. The book is really worthy of a good circulation in itself; and, on account of the uncommon difficulties in its way, the Institution deserves the hearty sympathy and support of kindred schools, to which it looks for its model. The self-denial of Mr. Widd and his assistants is praiseworthy, and they deserve to succeed in building up a permanently flourishing school.

The institutions in Canada have had much sickness during the past Winter. The school at Belleville had no fewer than ninety cases of measles and four deaths; and the Protestant Institution had a good share. Some of the pupils had typhoid fever, measles, mumps, croup &c., but fortunately there were no deaths.

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

A PUBLIC examination of the pupils of the Institution was held in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, on the evening of the 28th ult.

The exercises opened with an address, introducing the Institution to the public, by Judge Sharswood, President of the Board of Directors. Rev. Dr. Beadle then delivered a prayer; after which Mr. Foster, the Principal, made an explanatory address in regard to the system of deaf-mute instruction.

The usual exhibition of the pupils in their various grades of proficiency then followed; the recitation of a story, the scene of which was laid in New England, especially, creating great applause. *The Philadelphia Press* says of it: "It excelled the best pantomime ever presented, in that every detail was perfect."

In concluding, ex-Judge Woodward addressed the audience, explaining more fully the objects of the Institution and the means by which these objects are attained. He then asked the aid and co-operation of the audience, telling the people that they could help "by encouraging the friends of a deaf-mute child to send it to the Institution; by instructing their representatives in the Legislature to increase the annual appropriation for the Institution; by reminding rich men that the Institution is a charity worthy of their bequests; and, finally, by visiting the school, encouraging the teachers and pupils, and lending that mysterious and powerful support which human sympathy always begets."

He then thanked the audience, on behalf of the Board of Directors, for their attention, and the people were dismissed with the benediction.

#### NEW JERSEY.

By the kindness of a friend, in New Jersey, Mr. R. B. Lawrence, we have been provided with a copy of the Report of the Board of Commissioners appointed by Governor Parker, under act of Legislature, to report upon the number of deaf and dumb, blind and feeble-minded persons in the state, and upon the advisability of establishing an institution or institutions for their benefit.

The Commission report that New Jersey has fifty-three pupils at various institutions outside of the state, principally at New York and Philadelphia; and that, as far as they have been able to ascertain, there are 500 deaf and dumb persons in the state. It is true that the Census of 1870 gives only 231, but the Census is inconsistent with itself, for according to the proportion it has established for other sections of the country the number should be 330.

The Commission thinks there is no question as to the advisability of building a school; and says that it has received the opinions of twenty-seven superintendents of various institutions for all three classes. The whole of those who have expressed an opinion on the subject, think an institution should be located in a rolling or

undulating country, exposed to the sun, but near woodland and in the vicinity of some town or city.

The Commissioners, in all seriousness, say that if an *asylum* is provided for the care and custody of the whole number of deaf and dumb, the cost will be \$500,000; but that if the more desirable and more effective plan be pursued of providing for those only who are within the educable ages, the cost will be \$160,000. It is expected that the school will open with nearly 150 pupils.

The report concludes by strongly advising the establishment of a first class institution, and says that the institutions in which a part of the deaf and dumb of New Jersey are educated, are now overcrowded and need the room for pupils from their own states.

#### NEW YORK.

TWICE, since my last, death has entered our society. About three weeks ago, C. W. Blackburn, of Gouverneur, St Lawrence Co., a young man of twenty, physically the tallest and stoutest of our pupils, but, though a semi-mute, not fond of study, had an attack of homesickness, and took French leave, telling his school-mates he was able to walk all the way to his home, some four hundred miles. He had barely pocket-money enough to buy cheese and crackers for a few days. Eight or ten days later, the sad news came that his tramp had ended on the Hudson River Rail-road track, about a hundred miles north of this place. The engineer reported that he was walking on the track southward, not northward, and that when he saw the engine, he first stopped suddenly, then pulled his hat before his eyes, and walked quickly to meet the train. The pilot of the engine, striking his head, scattered his brains all around. His body, falling on the track, was shockingly mangled. Evidently, here was a case of suicide, whether deliberate, or from a sudden impulse will never be known. We can only conjecture that he had become wearied out with his long tramp, had spent the little money he had, and was suffering from hunger, and was balancing in his mind whether to beg his way back to school or to end all his troubles by one bold rush into the other world. He was a good and industrious, if not a very bright young man, and his family and the world have lost a first-rate laborer just when he had been trained to the full degree of usefulness.

In the other case, the dread summons came, not to a deaf-mute, but to an intelligent and amiable lady, Miss Katie Rice, who has for some months been one of our assistant matrons, having special charge of the girls' sewing. She appeared to be in good health and in lively spirits, when she suddenly complained of dizziness, was helped to her room, and expired in fifteen minutes. The medical opinion was, a case of apoplexy of the brain.

Nearly at the same time, another death occurred in Yonkers, a few miles north of this place. Oliver S. Strong, for many years one of the working philanthropists of New York, died at the house of his son-in-law (A. L. Curtis) in his 68th year. Mr Strong had been for many years, the leading member of the Trustees or Directors of the House of Refuge in this city, and for fifteen or twenty years, had been one of the most active and zealous members of the Board of Directors of this Institution.

Rev. Dr. Adams, President of our Board of Directors, has retired from his pastorate in the city, after more than forty years' service.

We are studying diligently in view of the approaching vacation.

There is a slight inaccuracy in your notice of the will of Mr. Braun, who left \$1000 each to Mr. Bartlett and Dr. Gallaudet. His wife was not an early pupil of Hartford, but a pupil of this Institution, entered by the name of Mary Ann Lanbscher, just forty years ago. She came with her parents from German Switzerland, was in the Institution seven years, was one of the best of her year, married Mr. Braun, was, about twenty years ago, a teacher in this Institution as Mrs. Marianne Brown (so Braun is pronounced, I believe), but died of consumption. She left no children. Hence Mr. Braun's bequests to some of her teachers and friends.

Spring comes unusually late here. A furious snow-storm in the last week of April and freezing weather on May-day morning are rather discouraging; still we believe in the constancy of the earth to her annual course, and in the promise that seed-time and harvest shall not cease.

May 2, 1874.

J. R. B.

### DIED.

HENRY W. CONRAD died of a paralytic stroke, on the 14th of March last, at his residence in West Philadelphia, having been an invalid for about twenty years. The deceased was in the sixty-fifth year of his age. Formerly, a law-book and pamphlet printer by occupation, he had (after his health failed him) been comfortably provided for, for the remainder of his life, being partly supported by a regular allowance of three dollars per week, granted to him by the Typographical Union of which he was a member. He graduated at the Pennsylvania Institution, in 1828. Being a man of superior intelligence, he had not many equals in colloquial powers, even retaining the usual vigor of his mind to the last. He leaves his devoted wife (hearing) to mourn his loss.

## THE FORTNIGHT.

ANDREW JOHNSON is a candidate for the Senate.

Gold has been found in the vicinity of Lake Winnipeg.

The transatlantic steamship lines have reduced their passage rates.

Mr. William B. Washburn, successor to Mr. Sumner, took the oath of office as Senator of the United States, on the 1st of May.

The appropriation bill, which has passed the House of Representatives, makes a large reduction in the clerical force of the Treasury and War Departments.

The trial of the detective, Patrick Leahy, for killing an unoffending laborer, named McNamara, on his own hearthstone, resulted in a verdict of not guilty.

California juries are to decide in capital cases, whether the accused shall suffer death or imprisonment for life. Two cases are on trial in that State, in which this discretion will for the first time be exercised.

In Marysville, Cal., the other day, a Newfoundland dog walked into a market, dropped a ten-cent piece out of his mouth, and walked away with a whole salmon. The butcher says some folks may call that dog intelligent, but he thinks that a dog that can't distinguish between a ten-cent slice and a \$5 fish hasn't even common sense.

Rather a keen piece of sarcasm is indulged in by the author of "Eldorado," a new burlesque at the Strand Theater, London. He makes the son of one of the characters welcome his father to Paris, and ask him if he had a pleasant railway journey. "Oh, yes," says the parent, "capital; we had a railway accident." "Indeed! What was it?" says the son. "We arrived safely!"

Nine of the largest cotton parishes of Louisiana are inundated, and 250,000 acres of cotton and 100,000 acres of corn are destroyed, without counting small farms and gardens. Twelve parishes, producing annually 30,000 hogsheads of sugar, are also overflowed. Twenty-five thousand people are already suffering for food, and the number is rapidly increasing. Crops are also washed out in the uplands by rain.

Every night's telegrams bring distressing intelligence of increasing ruin and suffering in the Lower Mississippi Valley. A number of fresh crevasses in the levees, which are built along the banks of the river to protect the neighboring lowlands from the floods, are reported every morning, inundating the country around. Appeals for assistance are still put forth from Louisiana, and it is reported that an address will be issued to the people of the United States showing the extent of the calamity and the necessity of prompt relief.

A few days ago a colored man applied at one of the Boston Savings Banks where he had a deposit, and from whence he wished to draw one dollar. The polite clerk informed him that the iron rule of the institution forbade the withdrawal of a less sum than three dollars. Our colored brother was in deep study for a few moments, and then said: "Sar, I'll take de free dollars." The three dollars were paid to him, when, at once, he added: "Now, sar, if you please, sar, I'll 'posit two dollars in de institution." The amount was duly received and credited to his account, when, with his loose dollar in his pocket, he gave the clerk a sly wink, and walked away whistling "Catch a weasel asleep."

Additional reports leave no doubt that Marshal Serrano has been successful in raising the siege of Bilbao, and has entered the town, where he was received with great rejoicing. Although this victory is an important one to the Republican troops, and will have a happy effect upon their morale, it does nothing to terminate the Carlist war, which may protract itself indefinitely in the mountain country in the north of Spain. In the northern provinces the inhabitants of the villages are Carlist sympathizers, and on the approach of the Republican columns, they carry all the cattle into the mountains, so that the collection of rations for the men is extremely difficult, and generally causes a delay of from twelve to twenty-four hours. This was the strength of the Legitimist adherents during the Seven Years' war, and it constitutes their strength still, and as the Carlist troops at their present time are much more numerous, better equipped, and better commanded, there is very little chance of the contest being brought to a speedy conclusion.

The town of North Providence, Rhode Island, has only one pauper to support. This individual has a farm all to himself, with carriage, horse, and cattle, food provided by contract, and a poormaster and family to take care of him.

There are wild reports from France foreshadowing important changes in the administration of affairs, and even referring to the possibility of renewed hostilities with Germany. These are undoubtedly exaggerated, but it is extremely doubtful if France is destined to float along with the serenity of the past few months for an indefinite period.

A class in mental arithmetic was questioned concerning the number of men required to perform a certain piece of work in a specified time; the answer given was: "Twelve men and two-thirds." A bright lad, perceiving the oddity of two-thirds of a man, instantly said: "Twelve men and a boy fourteen years old"—fourteen being two-thirds of twenty-one, the legal age of manhood.

The queerest object in nature is a Spanish beggar, for these beggars beg on horseback, and it is an odd thing to see a man riding up to a poor foot-passenger and asking alms. A gentleman in Valparaiso, being accosted by one of these mounted beggars, replied, "Why, sir, you come to beg of me, who have to go on foot, while you ride on horseback!" "Very true, sir," said the beggar, "and I have the more need to beg, as I have to support my horse as well as myself."

A performance of educated fleas is at the present time attracting much attention at Berlin. At a recent exhibition, one of the most accomplished of the insects, obeying a sudden impulse of its nature, sprang from the table and took refuge on the person of an illustrious lady. The exhibitor was in despair, as the truant was his best performer, and said he would be ruined unless it could be recovered. The lady good naturedly retired to an adjoining room, and after a few minutes' absence, returned with the flea between her thumb and forefinger. The exhibitor took it eagerly, gave one look at it, and then, with visible embarrassment, said, "Your Highness will pardon me, but this is not the right flea."

To discuss the exact legal rights and wrongs of the Arkansas imbroglio would be very tedious, even if it were necessary; but it is not necessary. The fact is that there are two persons claiming the title and exercising, or seeking to exercise, the executive powers of the State government, one of whom derives his authority from the legislature, and the other from the courts—and both have a color of right. But as matters stand, there is no power in the State capable of deciding between them. Baxter denies the competency of the courts, and Brooks the competency of the legislature. Behind or above these, there is nothing in the State government to appeal to. When a crisis of this sort arises in an independent community, an appeal to force follows, as a matter of course, and the government passes, as it ought to pass, into the hands of the stronger of the two parties. Perfect justice may not be worked in this way, but anarchy is prevented, and anarchy is the worst of political and social evils; in fact, it is the sum of all evils.—*New York Nation*.

Private letters from intelligent travellers are frequently the best source from which to gain information respecting matters in any State toward which one looks with more or less prejudice or partiality. A letter lately received from a lawyer who has been travelling leisurely through the South, written on business, with no thought of publication, thus speaks of the condition of things in Louisiana: "If Georgia and Alabama are poor, Louisiana is a vagrant and an outcast. I could scarcely exaggerate the miserable condition of this unhappy State. All the evils of unsettled government, a government too of the most unscrupulous plunderers and unblushing knaves, are as apparent as the deserted houses with ominous posters on their doors. The whole city is for sale. It is Anarchy amid the ashes of Rebellion. I am painfully impressed with it, as I have been with all I have seen in the South, and am almost blue enough to believe that recuperation cannot come in less than a good quarter of a century. And to add to the misfortunes of Louisiana, the Mississippi has broken in upon her and one-half of the State is to-day under water. Her people, that is, the old residents, are utterly broken in spirit, and seem to have lost all interest in everything of a public nature. It is the most gloomy political picture I have ever seen, one that I fancy will never be exceeded in the United States until we recognize Mexico as our standard."—*Every Saturday*.